

SECRET

NO COPY

Y 4131

Bx. known -

XARZ-28659

13 March 1946

TO: SAINT, Bern

FROM: SAINT

SUBJECT: Georgians in General - KEDIA et al

1. We are forwarding for your information and evaluation a study recently compiled by this branch on the subject of Georgia and the Georgians which contains an index. In conjunction with this, we have also prepared a compilation of all recent information on KEDIA.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE: METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001-2006

2 Attachments

- (1) Georgia and Georgians
- (2) KEDIA

NO COPY

AM SB
AM X
IN
DB
BR
DES MFD
FI

SECRET

ASH-REG-INT 150

Y 4131

XARZ-28659

SECRET

SUBJECT: Michael KEDIA

[]

Michael KEDIA; (Michel KEDIA); G KOEHLER, Michael.

Born: Georgia (USSR), 1902.

Former addresses: (a) 99 Kurfuestendamm, Berlin W 31,
Germany

(b) 4 Rue des Pradannes, Croissy,
France

(c) Vesines (near Paris), France.

Present address: 1 Rue des Granges, Geneva, Switzerland.

Languages: Russian, French, German.

Profession: Yoghourt manufacturer.

Parent: Stated to be son of Meki KEDIA, ex-director
of "Surete Georgienne", nephew of Spiridon KEDIA.

Held German passport No. 857, issued Berlin 15 March
43. Claimed to be German national of Armenian
origin (probably a part of his cover.)

Travels: Visited Istanbul (from Prague) once in 1943
(March 26th); and twice in 1942, staying only
a few days each time.

1. According to our files, KEDIA's first reported contact with the Germans occurred around September, 1940. This contact was with the Abwehr II section of Ast, Paris. While connected with Ast, Paris, KEDIA made trips to Abwehr II headquarters in Berlin presumably on subjects concerning activities of the Germans in Georgia in the case of an invasion of Russia. One report states that KEDIA wanted to take over direction of a Georgian government after his country's liberation by the invaders. This report also states that subject had conferences with such high-level figures as CANARIS, LAFOUSE and von LORINGHOVEN. There was a Georgian office in Paris under the direction of subject at 6 Avenue Sully-Prudhomme.

2. The chronology of subject's activities under the Germans is not clear. These activities, however, consisted of the following:

(a) Just before Germany declared war on Russia, subject was reported to be very busy looking up all the Georgians in France. When war was declared, he called them all to ether and told them that they could return to their native land if they would join the Germans. These Georgians were then trained at the Chateau de Rodquencourt. Subject made them sign papers in German promising to reveal nothing they learned there. After they were trained, they returned to Paris and were paid 100 francs daily while subject awaited orders from the Germans for their disposal. TAMARA WAS THE secret name given to missions made up of Georgian agent recruits, and it is claimed that KEDIA is chiefly responsible for the whole TAMARA project. It is also claimed that although the recruits were attracted on the basis of a proposed liberated Georgia, KEDIA, himself, was

aware of the fact that the Germans merely intended to use the people in the TAMARA project for special operations and had no intention of liberating the Georgians, and that KEDIA was driven by ambition and not Georgian patriotism.

(b) Subject recruited Caucasian PW's in order to form an anti-Communist Legion. During 1942 and 1943, he was reported recruiting agents for the SD to send to the Caucasus by parachute. This may or may not be identical with the TAMARA project. It is known that in connection with this activity, subject was in Turkey during March and December of 1943, also once previously in 1942. During his December visit he is reported to have looked for a staff for the proposed Georgian Ministry to be set up in Rome. This project is described on pages 12 and 13 of the Study, Georgia and the Georgians. In addition to the Georgians mentioned in the study entrusted with the mission of organizing the "Cloister", it is reported that KAPPLER, HETTL, REISSMANN of the SD were behind the scheme. KEDIA is supposed to have picked 3 novices from among the Georgians of his acquaintance to be sent to the "cloister" who were, however, later found unsuitable.

(c) KEDIA was reported Chief of the Georgian Section of Amt VI/C/Z, the so-called Zeppelin Section of Group C of Amt VI of the RSHA, which had the over-all responsibility for Russia. The Zeppelin Referat ran straight intelligence, sabotage and subversive operations in Russia.

(d) Subject, at one time or another, was reported to have worked with all of the various German Agencies concerning Georgia.

1. The Georgian National Committee which was part of the Rosenberg Ministry for the occupied eastern territories.
2. The Georgische Verbindungsstab which was/the under direction of BAMAT, and
3. Kaukasische Vertrauensstelle.

3. The contacts mentioned by KEDIA in your BX-625 do not mean much to us here especially considering the high level of all KEDIA's positions with the Germans and especially the GIS. The only Dr. KRAMER we have here was connected with the Abwehr in Cologne and the specialist in economic espionage with interests directed chiefly toward the USA. The Dr. Greffe of your BX-625 is undoubtedly Ostuf Dr. GRAEFE, former chief

SECRET

of VIC and in charge of all ST activities against Russia, Turkey and Near East. GRAPE was reported to have been killed in January of 1944 in a motor accident and to have been succeeded by Ostufaf Holmut TSCHEKSKY, about whom little including his whereabouts is known, in which matter KEDIA could possibly be of help.

4. The Dr. BEBER of your BX-625 is likewise not clearly identified here among the many BEBER's in our files, unless he is possibly Oberst Fritz BEBER @ Dr. OSWALD who was in Paris in the spring of 1941 and was throughout the war connected with Abwehr T in France. Is there any connection between the BEBER of your BX-625 and the Sdf BEBER who occurs on Page 2 of your BX-564, who is also not identifiable here, but would seem to be of exceptionable importance because of the part he played in KEDIA's chain.

5. Of all the personalities in the GIS with whom KEDIA must have had contact, it would seem likely that his closest one must have been Stmbf Erich HENGELHAUPT who was Chief of Referat VI/C/Z (ZEPPELIN operation) and at one time, was reported to be Chief of the whole of Referats of VI/C. HENGELHAUPT is a high priority target for London and would undoubtedly be a rich source for the kind of information we are most recently interest in. He was last heard of by London as heading for Danzig around the time of the German break-up in early 1945. A report from Austria states that HENGELHAUPT fled to Switzerland with KEDIA, and we also understand from a recent arrival here that this information was given/informally some weeks ago in Paris. We should like immediate verification of this news of HENGELHAUPT's presence in Switzerland, and believe if he is actually there, steps should be taken at once to bring about his expulsion and arrest.

6. From the same source from which the above information on HENGELHAUPT comes, we have also recently received a good deal of information concerning the activities of KEDIA and other Georgians. The source of this information was an operation run in Austria in the fall which made use of KEDIA's rival,

Although Austria evaluates all the information which this operation delivered very highly, we assume here that since the participants were naturally biased against KEDIA and his group, the information is much more likely to be of doubtful value. We would appreciate your judgment on the matter.

7. In general, the Austrian operation reports that KEDIA is an opportunist of the purest sort who has at all times played both sides. Thus, he helped many Jews in France (as in your BX-625, Page 2), receiving however, quite adequate financial remuneration for this assistance. Although on the

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET

On the one hand, he organized the Georgische Verbindungsstab and the Georgian Fighting Units within the SD and SS, he is reported on the other hand, to have kept up high connections with Georgian Menshevik Irredentist circles and with Soviet agents and cells, such as the NKVD agent, Major KABOUNIA, whom he shielded from the Gestapo by giving him refuge in the Georgische Verbindungsstab.

8. The Austrian reports contain information that KEDIA, in fleeing to Switzerland, took with him all the money of the Georgische Verbindungsstab, which would not seem to jive with your information, stating that KEDIA has always been financed and is still by PERICZE.

9. Regarding KEDIA's intelligence activities in Switzerland, the Austrian reports contain information to the effect that KEDIA put himself in contact with American and British Intelligence Agencies as well as Soviet Intelligence Officers. His contacts are reported to be the following:

a. A member of the Soviet Repatriation Committee in Salzburg, namely, Captain TSHARTISHVILI.

b. Alexandre TSOMAYA, ALCHIRAYA, KASAISHVILI and MAGALOW-MAGALOWSHVILI, all former members of the Georgische Verbindungsstab, at present in Munich where they are receiving the assistance of the Americans, but are also in contact with the Russians.

c. Chota BERESZINI, reportedly subject's right-hand man and his liaison with Soviet agents during the time of the Verbindungsstab, who was in Salzburg during early 1945, succeeded in obtaining permission for repatriation to Switzerland and was taken to the Swiss border with the above-mentioned Captain TSHARTISHVILI and Lt. MDIVANI on September 6, 1945 with instructions for KEDIA to enlarge as much as possible his Georgian committee in Switzerland.

d. BRUSCHWEILER, chief of the Berner Hilfsverein (Committee for the assistance to people reluctant to return to the Soviet Union), who was prevailed upon by various persons to entrust the representation of his committee in Switzerland to KEDIA in so far as Georgian interests were concerned.

e. Nina KIKOMER-BUJAKVIC, who worked for subject in Paris and was contacted in August or September, 1945 by subject in Switzerland through couriers. It is reported that KEDIA wanted her to go to Switzerland for reasons which are not entirely clear.

SECRET